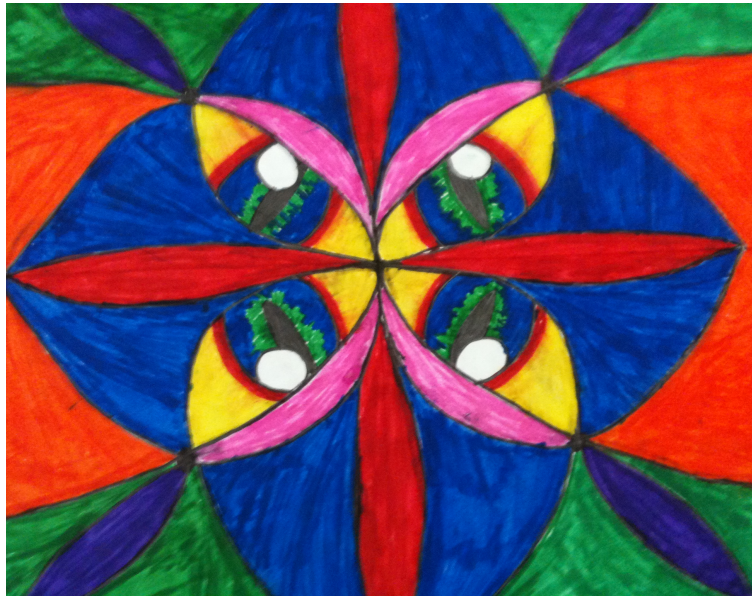


SCHOOL CLOSURE **FAQs**

February 11, 2011



Artwork courtesy of
an Arts and
Technology Academy
student

Quick answers to your burning questions

...and more to come

1. Have the new boundaries been drawn for all the closing schools?

Yes, maps are being drawn up and we hope to have them available in the next week or so.

2. How will existing transfers be accommodated?

Students currently attending a closing school on a transfer may enroll at the receiving school if space is available (placement to be determined by a special lottery if necessary), attend their own neighborhood school, or enter the regular school choice lottery if they wish to enroll at a different school. Parker families will have the additional option of requesting placement at Edgewood instead of Camas Ridge or vice versa, if space is available (placement to be determined by a special lottery if necessary). After neighborhood students and existing transfer students are accommodated, any remaining capacity may be filled via the regular school choice lottery, with all the usual priorities and rules about siblings, free and reduced, and transportation.

3. How will parents be notified about the process?

Letters will be sent out to every family at each closing school, explaining the placement process and asking them to respond. The mailing will include a form for families to indicate whether they want to enroll at the receiving school, revert to their neighborhood school (for existing transfers), request Camas Ridge or Edgewood (for current Parker students) or request a different school choice in the regular lottery. When the letters go out, we also will send an autodialer message to affected families, and provide a sample communication to principals to notify families to look for the letter in the mail.

4. Will school level caps be expanded at alternative schools?

No, school level caps will not be expanded at this time. There are many considerations to be made about this type of decision and it is our first priority to ensure that we take care of our students, families, and staff at our closing schools. The board will be reviewing language immersion programs next year and this may be considered at that time.

Burning FAQs Continued

...and so it goes

5. Will there be compensation for staff to close schools?

Yes, there is a budget planned for this work. The District School Closure, Consolidation, and Move Committee is reviewing all of the information for equity and fairness.

6. Who will weed out library collections and pack them up?

There will be staff paid for two weeks to weed out and pack up the library and then staff paid for one week to unpack at the receiving school.

7. Will existing technology equipment be moved to the receiving school?

Yes, all equipment that is needed at the receiving school (including SMART Boards, projectors, COWs, iPods, iPads, etc.) will follow the students from the closed school. Where students are split into two receiving schools, the equipment will be divided equitably. Any additional duplicated equipment will be distributed to other schools using a process that has yet to be determined. Stay tuned.

8. Will teachers be able to take their laptop to their new location?

Yes, teachers will be able to take their laptop to their new school.

9. Will student laptops/COWS be moved to the receiving schools?

Yes, all COWS, IPODS, IPADS, and other student equipment will follow the students. Where students are split into two receiving schools the equipment will be divided equitably.

More artwork by students at Arts and Technology Academy

